Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/741,821	ROELENS, FREDERIC	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Michael P. Choi	2621	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *transmittal of new application on 12/19/2003*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *1-35*.

3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
   a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
      1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
      2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .
      3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

   * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
   (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
   (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

   Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 6/4/04
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ .
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-35 are allowed.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 35 has been amended to remove the period directly following "... a video driver circuit" and replaced with a ';' ("... a video driver circuit;").

Reasons for Allowance

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1-16 identify the uniquely distinct limitation "allocating frame memories when one of the frame memories is to be overwritten so as to permit storage of a new picture to be decoded as follows; overwriting based on a priority, a frame memory a picture which has already been displayed and which is no longer required for performing a next picture decoding; overwriting based on a priority, a frame memory, in which a picture which exhibits a minimum decoding cost is stored; not overwriting a frame memory, in which a picture which is currently being displayed is stored; not overwriting a frame memory, in which a picture which is ready for display but has not yet been displayed is stored; and not overwriting a frame memory, in which a reference picture required for decoding of a new picture to be decoded is stored; wherein if no frame memory as allocated above can be overwritten, then suspending the decoding the until a picture is displayed and the frame memories are re-allocated as after this display as characterized above."

Claims 17-35 identify the similarly uniquely distinct limitation "a means for allocating the frame memories when one of the frame memories is to be overwritten so as to permit storage of a new picture

to be decoded as follows; a frame memory in which a picture which has already been displayed and which is no longer required for performing a next picture decoding, is overwritten by priority; a frame memory, in which a picture which exhibits a minimum decoding cost is stored, is overwritten by priority; a frame memory, in which a picture which is currently being displayed is stored, cannot be overwritten; a frame memory, in which a picture which is ready for display but has not yet been displayed is stored, cannot be overwritten; and a frame memory, in which a reference picture required for the decoding of the new picture to be decoded is stored, also cannot be overwritten; wherein if no frame memory as allocated above can be overwritten, then suspending the decoding until a picture is displayed and the frame memories are re-allocated as characterized above."

4. The closest prior art, Kataoka (US 6,553,183 B1) either singularly or in combination fail to anticipate or render the above quoted limitations obvious.

Kataoka teaches a hierarchical overwrite recording by selecting lower layer blocks via block generator to overwrite a full recording disc through mixture of higher layer blocks and lower layer blocks in accordance with a block sequence. Also, Kataoka teaches a hierarchizing means for hierarchizing input video and/or audio data so that data of a highest priority is hierarchized to a bottom layer, and as data priority decreases, the data is hierarchized to a higher layer; a block generating means for generating a plurality of blocks of a uniform size from data in each hierarchized layer obtained by the hierarchizing means; a recording means for recording a block generated by the block generating means to a recording medium the recording medium being rewritable, randomly accessible, accompanied by mechanical operation in recording, and contained in the recording means; and recording control means for controlling the recording means; wherein the recording control means: until the recording medium becomes full, controls the recording means to record a plurality of blocks generated by the block generating means to the recording medium so that blocks are arranged in a linear and consecutive sequence; and after the recording medium becomes full: selects a lower layer block as a block to be recorded from blocks generated by the block generating means; selects a higher layer block from a block sequence on the recording medium as a block to be overwritten; and controls the recording means to record a lower layer

block to be recorded by overwriting to a higher layer block to be overwritten in sequence from a block near a beginning of the block sequence. Kataoka fails to explicitly teach "allocating frame memories when one of the frame memories is to be overwritten so as to permit storage of a new picture to be decoded as follows; overwriting based on a priority, a frame memory a picture which has already been displayed and which is no longer required for performing a next picture decoding; overwriting based on a priority, a frame memory, in which a picture which exhibits a minimum decoding cost is stored; not overwriting a frame memory, in which a picture which is currently being displayed is stored; not overwriting a frame memory, in which a picture which is ready for display but has not yet been displayed is stored; and not overwriting a frame memory, in which a reference picture required for decoding of a new picture to be decoded is stored; wherein if no frame memory as allocated above can be overwritten, then suspending the decoding the until a picture is displayed and the frame memories are re-allocated as after this display as characterized above." nor the means for such. As such, Kataoka either singularly or in combination fails to anticipate or render the above quoted limitations obvious.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael P. Choi whose telephone number is (571) 272-9594. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8:00AM - 5:30PM (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thai Tran can be reached on (571) 272-7382. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MC

SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
THAI Q. TRAN
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600